

Message Text

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TAGS:BBAK, OVIP

SUBJECT:BIO DATA: ALFRED E. KAHN

REF: BLACK/ROESCH TELECON 3/30/78

THERE FOLLOWS BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF CAB CHAIRMAN KAHN
PREPARED BY KAHN'S OFFICE.

BEGIN SUMMARY:

(PARA) CHAIRMAN ALFRED E. KAHN WAS NOMINATED BY PRESIDENT
CARTER TO A TERM ON THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD ON MAY 6,
1977 AND SWORN IN ON JUNE 10 AS A MEMBER, SUCCEEDING
R. TENNEY JOHNSON, AND DESIGNATED CHAIRMAN. HIS TERM AS A
MEMBER EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 1982.

(PARA) AT THE TIME OF HIS NOMINATION, KAHN WAS CHAIRMAN OF
THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, A POST HE HAD
HELD SINCE 1974.

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(PARA) KAHN RECEIVED HIS BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES
AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, AND HIS DOCTORATE IN ECONOMICS
FROM YALE UNIVERSITY IN 1942.

(PARA) DR. KAHN'S PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE INCLUDES
ONE YEAR WITH THE ANTITRUST DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE, AS WELL AS SERVICE ON MANY GOVERNMENT ADVISORY

COMMITTEES. HE WORKED WITH A PRIVATE COMMISSION ON PALESTINE SURVEYS AND WITH THE 20TH CENTURY FUND STUDIES OF CARTELS AND MONOPOLY.

(PARA) FOLLOWING SERVICE IN THE ARMY, HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT AT RIPON COLLEGE IN WISCONSIN BEFORE MOVING TO CORNELL UNIVERSITY IN 1947 AS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR. IN 1974 HE WENT ON LEAVE FROM CORNELL TO CHAIR THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. DURING HIS TENURE AT THE UNIVERSITY, HIS POSITIONS INCLUDED CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS (1958-1963), ROBERT JULIUS THORNE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS FROM 1967, MEMBER OF THE CORNELL BOARD OF TRUSTEES (1964-1969), AND DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (1969-1974).

(PARA) SINCE COMING TO THE CAB, CHAIRMAN KAHN HAS BECOME A LEADING ADVOCATE OF WHAT IS GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED AS "REGULATORY REFORM." IN GENERAL, IT INVOLVES AN ATTEMPT TO REEXAMINE AND SIMPLIFY THE PERVASIVE INTERVENTIONS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE PRIVATE ECONOMY.

(PARA) IN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY, ITS PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IS THE ATTEMPT TO RESTORE THE INDUSTRY AS THOROUGHLY AS POSSIBLE TO REGULATION BY THE COMPETITIVE MARKET. BY ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING NEW APPLICATIONS FOR ROUTE AUTHORITY, THE BOARD IS STIMULATING PRICE COMPETITION NOT ONLY WITHIN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNITED STATES, BUT ALSO OVERSEAS.

(PARA) IN ADDITION, CHAIRMAN KAHN HAS EARNED A CONSIDERABLE REPUTATION FOR HIS ATTEMPTS TO PUT A HUMAN FACE ON GOVERNMENT, FOR EXAMPLE BY MAKING SURE THAT THE BOARD COMMUNICATES WITH PEOPLE IN PLAIN ENGLISH. AS HE PUT IT IN A MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD'S STAFF WITHIN A WEEK OF ASSUMING THE CHAIRMANSHIP: "MAY I ASK YOU, PLEASE, TO TRY VERY HARD TO WRITE BOARD ORDERS AND, EVEN MORE SO, DRAFTS OF LETTERS FOR MY SIGNATURE, IN STRAIGHTFORWARD, QUASI-CONVERSATIONAL, HUMANE PROSE--AS THOUGH YOU ARE TALKING TO OR COMMUNICATING WITH REAL PEOPLE."

(PARA) FINALLY, HE HAS MADE MAJOR PROGRESS IN SIMPLIFYING AND SPEEDING UP PROCEDURES AT THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD, IN REDUCING REGULATORY LAG, AND HAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY

EMBRACED THE NATIONAL POLICY OF THE "SUNSHINE ACT," BY CONDUCTING VIRTUALLY ALL THE BOARD'S DECISION-MAKING MEETINGS IN SESSIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. COOPER

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